

Bogue Chitto

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2015-2016



Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge General Fishing, Hunting and Camping Regulations

The regulations listed below supplement Louisiana and Mississippi State hunting and fishing regulations and the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All plants and animals are protected from hunting unless a specific refuge hunting season allows for the take of animals under this permit.

Hunters, anglers and campers sixteen years of age and older are required to have a Refuge permit. This brochure when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2015-2016 Refuge hunts, angling and camping. Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by wildlife officers.

Unless stated otherwise in this brochure, all Refuge lands are open during daylight shooting hours only with the exception of legal night time hunting activities. Daylight shooting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

**Bogue Chitto
National Wildlife Refuge
61389 Highway 434
Lacombe, LA 70445
985/882 2000
www.fws.gov/southeastlouisiana**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

July 2015

Motorized vehicles are only permitted on public roads and designated parking areas.

The Refuge will be closed to all hunting, except waterfowl, when the Pearl River reaches 15.5 feet on the gauge at Pearl River. Call the National Weather Service at 985/649 0357 for current reading.

State hunting regulations apply unless otherwise listed. When the Refuge follows State seasons (as listed below); those Refuge lands in Mississippi follow Mississippi State seasons and those Refuge lands in Louisiana follow Louisiana State seasons.

Youth hunter age, adult supervision age and hunter education requirements are defined by State regulation. All persons under 16 years of age in Mississippi and all persons age 17 and younger in Louisiana, while hunting on the Refuge, must be in the presence and under direct supervision of a licensed or exempt hunter at least 21 years of age in Mississippi and 18 years of age in Louisiana while hunting. A licensed hunter supervising a youth must hold all required licenses and permits. Supervising adults shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of Refuge regulations. Dogs are allowed for hunting migratory birds, squirrels, rabbits, raccoon and hogs during designated seasons only.

Big Game Regulations

Legal primitive firearms for primitive firearms season are defined by State law in the State you are hunting in.

All state approved archery equipment will be allowed as a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

It is illegal to construct or to hunt from any permanent stands or blinds. Valid permit holders are allowed to possess and hunt from on portable stand or blind on the Refuge. All stands on the Refuge must be identified with hunter's name and phone number permanently and legibly written on or attached to the stand. Stands left on the area do not reserve the hunting locations. Temporary stands may be placed two days prior to hunt and must be removed two days after the season closes. Stands not in compliance with these regulations may be confiscated and disposed of by the Refuge.

In Louisiana, during the Refuge deer firearm and primitive weapon season, all hunters, except waterfowl hunter and nighttime raccoon and opossum hunters, must wear in full view no less than 400 square inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange as the outermost layer of clothing on the chest and back and a fluorescent orange cap. All hunters in Mississippi must abide by the same fluorescent regulation above but wear not less than 500 square inches of the fluorescent orange in place of the 400 square inch requirement described above.

Deer hunters hunting from concealed blinds must display a minimal of 400 sq. inches of solid unbroken fluorescent orange visible from all sides.

In the event the Refuge is closed during the deer gun hunts due to high water, alternative hunt days may be provided. Details will be provided in a news release and on the Refuge web site. (Proposed dates, up to 18 days from December 28 to

Bogue Chitto Refuge Hunting/Fishing/Camping Permit 2015-2016

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts, angling and camping and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.
Expires June 30, 2016.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

January 17, either sex; but only as many days as lost from the high water closure, bucks only on week days.)

For all deer hunts in Mississippi, except youth hunts, legal buck antler restrictions apply.

Migratory Bird Regulations

Waterfowl hunting must cease by noon and all decoys, spent shells, and blinds must be removed from the hunting area by 1 pm.

Upland Game/Small Game

All other hunters, including archery hunters (while on the ground), except waterfowl hunters, must wear a hunter-orange cap or hat during the season for squirrels and rabbits. All hunters using shotguns for small game must use approved non-toxic shot. Small game also may be hunted with .22 magnum, .17 and .22 caliber rimfire rifles.

Prohibited Activities:

- The possession of toxic shot while hunting is prohibited, except during the deer and hog gun hunts.
- Hunting from a permanent tree stand or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally-occurring food attractant on the Refuge is strictly prohibited.
- The use of horses and all-terrain vehicles.
- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a paid guided hunt.
- Target shooting on the Refuge.
- Incidental take of hogs during the squirrel, rabbit and turkey seasons is prohibited.
- Houseboats within Refuge boundaries except for navigational purposes.
- Trail cameras.
- The use of deer or turkey gobbler decoys.
- It is unlawful to hunt from or shoot into a 100 foot zone from the

centerline of a public road, Refuge road, designated or maintained trail, building, residence, designated public facility, or above ground electric facilities.

- The use of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tacks.
- Field dressing game (hogs included) within 300 feet of any road, trail or parking lot.
- Cutting, removing, or damaging live trees.
- Searching for or removing any object of archeological or historical significance including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

Camping

Primitive camping is permitted within 100 feet of designated streams. This includes either bank of the Bogue Chitto River, Wilson Slough, West Pearl River south of Wilson Slough and Refuge lands along the East Pearl River and Holmes Bayou.

No campsite can be left unattended longer than 24 hours. Campsites cannot be established longer than 14 consecutive days.

The Refuge is closed to camping when the Pearl River reaches 15.5 feet on the gauge at Pearl River. Campers must mark their campsite with the owner's name, address, phone number, and dates of occupancy in a conspicuous location at the front of the tents.

Specific Sport Fishing Regulations

Recreational fishing is permitted year-round in accordance with State Regulations subject to the following conditions. All Federal and State regulations governing boating, creel limits, and license requirements must be followed by Refuge anglers. Commercial fin fishing and shell fishing are prohibited.

Limb lines are permitted but must be 100% cotton.

Trotlines are permitted, but the ends of trotlines must be attached by a cotton line which extends into the water and be tended every 24 hrs.

All non-attended fishing gear on or attached to the Refuge must be tagged with the owners name, address, and phone number.

The fishing pond at the Pearl River Turnaround is open except closed from April-June. Non-gas powered boats may be hand launched when open. The use of this fishing pond area is permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset.

Type Hunt	Season: Mississippi (MS) and Louisiana (LA)	Special Regulations
Archery deer, either sex	LA: State Season MS: State Season	All State approved archery equipment is allowed. Hunters are encouraged to complete a certified Bowhunter Education course. Hogs may be taken with archery equipment during the deer archery season.
Youth gun deer	Nov. 13 - 15, 2015	Deer either sex. Still hunting only. No dogs. Hogs may be taken as incidental game.
General gun deer and hog	Nov. 20 - 26, 2015	Deer bucks only. Still hunting only. No dogs.
	Nov. 27 - 29, 2015	Deer either sex. Still hunting only. No dogs.
	Dec. 19 - 27, 2015	Deer either sex. Still hunting only. No dogs.
Primitive weapon/ archery (MS) and Primitive firearm (LA) Deer and hog	Jan. 18 - 24, 2016	Either sex. Still hunting only. No dogs.
	Jan. 25 - 26, 2016	Bucks only. Still hunting only. No dogs.
Squirrel and rabbit	State Fall Season (including Youth Season in MS) except closed during State Spring Squirrel Season and closed during all deer gun and primitive firearms hunts	Only non-toxic shot (size #4 or smaller) or .22 cal rimfire ammunition or smaller is permitted. Dogs may be used from Oct. 26 - Nov. 7, 2015 and from Feb. 1 - 28, 2016. Closed during gun and primitive firearms hunts. Raccoon and opossum may be taken as incidental take during the rabbit and squirrel season (daytime only). Limit one per person per day.
Raccoon and opossum	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2016	Only night time hunting is permitted in accordance with state regulations. Dogs are allowed. Only non-toxic shot (#4 or smaller) or .22 cal rimfire ammunition or smaller is permitted.
Turkey	State Spring Season including Youth Season (closed during State Fall Season)	State rules and regulations apply. No shot larger than BB lead or T steel is allowed while hunting.
Waterfowl and coots (Ducks, geese and coots)	State Teal, and General Waterfowl Season including Youth Season	Hunting is permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise (ducks, geese and coots) until noon. Closed to hunting during the special "light goose" conservation season.
Woodcock	State Season	Only non-toxic shot is permitted using #4 shot or smaller. Only recognized breeds of setter/retriever dogs are allowed.
Hog (dogs only)	Feb. 1 - 28, 2016	May be taken only with the aid of trained hog hunting dogs. Legal hunting hours are 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset. All hogs must be killed prior to removal from the refuge. During this season, only shotguns with non toxic shot or .22 cal. or smaller pistols or rifles with rimfire ammunition are permitted.

